GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:272
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
VACANT PLOTS UNDER THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has thousands of plots lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which they are lying vacant;

(c) the total area of these plots and their current market value;

(d) whether many of these plots have been encroached upon illegally;

(e) if so, the details thereof and action being taken to get them vacated;

(f) whether there is any proposal to utilise these plots for post offices or commercial outlets; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Department of Posts has 1871 plots lying vacant.

(b) State-wise number of plots lying vacant is given in Annexure-I. The time by which they are lying vacant is given in Annexure-II.

(c) Total area of the plots lying vacant is also given in Annexure-I. The current market value of these plots is being collected from the field units and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) 187 number of vacant plots are under encroachment.

(e) Postal Circle wise details of vacant plots under encroachment is given in Annexure-III. Department is making effort by liaising with the State Govt. and local Police and Civil authorities to get vacated the encroachment. The Secretary (Posts) has written demi-officially to the Chief Secretaries of States concerned urging them to get the encroachments freed where there is no court case pending and several Chief Secretaries have also initiated action on the basis of same.

(f) & (g) Construction on vacant plots is taken in phased manner depending upon priority and availability of funds. For commercial exploitation of vacant plots of the Department, in consultation with Ministry of Finance and Department of Urban Development, the Department of Posts has mooted a proposal for setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). For the purpose, a Cabinet Note has been sent to the Cabinet for their approval.